Avon Valley National Park

Park guide

The Avon Valley National Park covers approximately 4,800 hectares of bush reserve and lies on the transition between the jarrah forest of the south, and the drier northern country. The upland in the park is forested with jarrah, marri and powderbark; the valleys are forested with wandoo.

The Avon River, which runs through the centre of the park, is named Golguler by the Nyoongar people of the Darling Range. The river is fringed with flooded gum and becomes a turbulent flood in during the winter months, rushing down to join the Swan River in Walyunga National Park.

Avon Valley National Park was declared in 1970 and is known for being the hide-out of Joseph Bolitho Johns (Moondyne Joe). Moondyne Joe was WA's most infamous bush ranger, whose exploits began after his first escape from the Toodyay lockup in 1861. His cave and corral were located in the north of what is now the Avon Valley National Park, but have been all but destroyed by successive bushfires.

From summer to winter, from north to south, and from high outcrops to deep river and stream valleys, the forests of Avon Valley National Park are constantly changing. The Avon River flows in winter and spring when the river churns over spectacular rapids. During summer and autumn the river diminishes to a series of pools in a bed of granite boulders and tea-tree thickets. The park features forests and granite outcrops, panoramic views over the Avon Valley and the chance to see a wide variety of birds and wildlife.

The roads within the park are all unsealed. The nearest telephone, petrol and food outlets are at Gidgegannup or Toodyay, 30 kilometres from the park. There are some picnic facilities and basic camping sites. The small amount of development means much of the park has wilderness qualities. The best time to visit is during the cooler months.

Note: Sappers Road and Sappers Campsite are seasonally closed due to slippery and dangerous road conditions during wet weather.

Entry fees
Entry fees apply. Camping fees apply.

Facilities
Picnic areas are at Bald Hill, Drummonds Valley and Homestead campsites. Bald Hill is located near the end of Governors Drive and provides views over the valley and park. Drummonds is about one kilometre back from Bald Hill along a short turn-off. Homestead campsite is located on Governors Drive.

There are shaded picnic areas, barbecues and toilets at Bald Hill, Drummonds, and at Valley Campsite on 41 Mile Road.
The Avon River can be run by experienced canoeists in winter and is made famous by the Avon Descent each August. In summer the river slows to a trickle, becoming a series of shallow pools, and is unsuitable for swimming.

On-site information
Rangers, information shelter, park guides.

Important note: The park may be closed at short notice due to fire risk or other emergency conditions.

Visitor safety
To ensure your safety while in the park:
• stay on tracks and paths
• remember that your safety in natural areas is our concern but your responsibility.

The park contains many rapids and risk areas. Extreme caution must be undertaken to avoid slipping and falling in such areas.

Caring for the park
• Please do not feed the native animals as it interferes with their natural ability to hunt.
• Pets are not allowed in the park.
• The taking of flora and fauna is prohibited.
• Take your rubbish with you when you leave.
• All Aboriginal sites within Western Australia are protected by law. Leave artefacts where you find them.